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LETTER DATED 9 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Reports from United Nations military observers of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), presented in a briefing to the Security Council and in statements to the press on 7 February 1995 by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, have included information which is not mentioned in the written assessment of the Mission of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia given by the Co-Chairmen of the Conference and provided to the Council on 7 February. As this information is vitally relevant to the work of the Security Council with respect to its resolutions 943 (1994) and 970 (1995), we believe that these inconsistencies need clarification, in particular:

1. UNPROFOR United Nations military observers at Srebrenica near the border were able to sight 62 helicopter sorties on 8 separate occasions over a 4-day period; on the other hand, the written assessment of the Co-Chairmen states that International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia monitors, also positioned at the border, neither heard nor saw these helicopters. Regardless of what speculation or conclusion one can draw about the origin of the helicopter flights, the extended sightings witnessed by UNPROFOR sharply contradict the report of the International Conference's Mission expressing no sightings.

2. During the same period that the flights occurred, monitors of the International Conference's Mission were denied access to radar facilities at Surcin airfield, according to the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Department of Peace-keeping Operations covering the period from 3 to 6 February. Unfortunately, the written assessment of the Co-Chairmen omits this event. Despite the fact that this radar equipment is essential to the work of the border monitors, the denial for the use of this equipment by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) authorities is a violation of the understanding under which the border monitors work, and even could have explained why the International Conference's monitors could not see what other United Nations personnel in fact did see.

Having in mind the principles of integrity and accountability, we would ask the Security Council to review with the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and the Secretariat the source of these inconsistencies, and to prevent their recurrence.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative